

June 25, 2020

## GSHPA Re-opens under **Green** Guidelines

As we begin the re-opening process in nearly all counties across Pennsylvania, I want to thank you for the many ways in which you have supported girls since the beginning of this pandemic. Throughout the past three months, we have urged all our members to follow the guidance provided by the CDC and our Governor. As you may recall, our council staff has been working virtually since March 16, 2020. Along with so many of you, as counties transition to the green phase in much of Northeast and Central Pennsylvania, we are pleased to return to some semblance of normal.

I am happy to share that GSHPA will re-open our office locations, under COVID-19 safety guidelines. On **Monday, July 6, 2020**, our Harrisburg location re-opens. On **Monday, July 13, 2020**, Lewisburg, Scranton and York office locations will re-open. Lancaster and State College office locations remain closed, with staff continuing to telework. *All offices that are open will operate under an 8:30-5:00 p.m. schedule.* Guests and staff at any open GSHPA location are required to wear masks when entering the building and when in common areas. Guests and staff must also abide by social distancing policies, and we appreciate your support as you visit any of our offices.

Understandably, questions have been raised regarding how our troops and Service Units can return to pre-COVID-19 levels of engagement. Again, the state and CDC guidance apply. Many activities that were previously prohibited are again permissible with certain additional safety precautions.

For example, traveling from green to green counties is permitted. Trips to amusement parks, to go hiking or participate in other outdoor activities are permitted in green counties within existing guidelines. Service Unit appreciation dinners for Troop Leaders at restaurants are also permitted within existing guidelines. A reminder that the date for GSHPA properties to re-open remains August 31, 2020; reservations are currently being taken for fall overnights.

While GSHPA proceeds with re-opening, I encourage you to take advantage of the many virtual events and activities available on our [Events Calendar](#) and our [GS At Home](#) page. Please also take a look at the [events available at GSUSA](#), many of which complement what we offer at the council level.

I wish you a healthy and safe holiday weekend and hope you have time planned to recognize the value of our individual and collective independence. We are a blessed and rich nation in so many ways. Thank you for your continued support of Girl

Scouts!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

*Janet Donovan*

**Janet Donovan**

RADM, JAGC, USN(Ret.)

President and Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania